



New Immigration officers are sworn in by the Minister of Justice

In the Chapel of the Instituto di Cultura in Oranjestad, thirty-two graduates, clad in their blue uniforms of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (DINA) waited to be sworn in on Friday morning, December 16. Nito Nava, the Director of DINA, and Harold Fingal, the Director of the Immigration, under whom they will directly serve, addressed them. Finally, the Minister of Justice, the Honorable Rudy Croes approached the podium, the man that would finally confirm them as official representatives of the island of Aruba.

Minister Croes congratulated them on completing their training, which started in February. He also stated his pride in seeing a new class of officer candidates make the grade for the first time since the year 2000. These new officers will swell the ranks of those that process island visitors and immigrants into the island to approximately eighty, and so help to make entering Aruba a more efficient and less time-consuming chore. This class will specifically be sent to work at Aruba's ports of entry, the ship terminal, the airport, and the Valero Refinery. Minister Croes then reminded the newly minted officers of how important a job they will be doing.

"Aruba's industry is tourism," he told the students "and you are the first people that visitors will meet when they come to the island. It is your responsibility to show them what we are all about; you represent us all, in that for many this will be their first experience in Aruba. You will be the face of Aruba they will greet when they arrive, and they will bid farewell when depart."

The oath of office was then read aloud by an officer of the DINA, and each candidate stood before Minister Croes to swear to the various points of their oath of office. It requires that they recognize their responsibility as an officially empowered agent of the island government, and that they swear to uphold the tenants and duties of their position, perform them to the best of their abilities, and not to abuse that power for personal gain.

Once each candidate was sworn in, in the presence of proud family and friends, they all enjoyed a well-deserved celebration of their new status, which took them four months of classes and six months internship to obtain. Aruba's visitors will see many fresh, young smiling faces awaiting them as they pass through immigration when they arrive for the coming holiday season, and with the increased staff, much less waiting time to handle the busy holiday traffic.